

## Liquid Romanticism: Rivers, Lakes and Sacred Founts

This open-call session focuses on the representation of inland waters in British Romanticism. Reflecting the emphasis on 'Romantic Facts and Fantasies', the session will address the ways in which descriptions of lakes, rivers and streams flow through literature, science and culture of the long eighteenth century, connecting writers, genres and modes of expression and enquiry at a time when debates about the use and abuse of inland waters for industrial and domestic purposes were coming to the fore.

Potential speakers are invited to respond to the title as openly and imaginatively as possible, but papers that engage with one or more of the following themes would be particularly welcome: the fluvial tradition in poetry and prose of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries; the influence of pagan and Christian representations of water in Romantic period writings, with an emphasis on the depiction of sacred springs and holy wells; water and the origins of lyric poetry; the use of the river as an organising motif in literary and graphic illustrations of human history; waters, real and imagined in the *Lyrical Ballads*; Wordsworth's Duddon and Ecclesiastical sonnets; liquid landscapes in the poetry of Blake, Southey, Coleridge, Scott, Keats, Shelley and Byron; the relations between literature, water and geographical facts and fantasies; the development of Lake District tourism; water, labour and pleasure; water, gender and sexuality; theoretical applications, e.g. Bachelard, Bauman and Illich; water scarcity and water conservation; pollution and purity; violent waters and healing waters; representations of fishing, swimming and bathing; floods and the drowned world; water and Romantic science; river journeys, real and imagined; waste water, water management and public health; Romantic responses to the development of the canal network.

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